(a) whether more time and labour is involved in the loading and unloading of the goods from the vessels at Indian ports, as compared to other ports of the world;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether any assessment regarding average time and labour used in the loading and unloading of the goods from the vessels at each port of the country, has been made;

(d) whether the Government have taken steps to improve the situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, and the time and labour likely to be saved thereby?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) It is very difficult to make a comparison of time and labour involved for loading and unloading of cargo in Indian and foreign ports in view of a number of factors which vary from port to port, such as the scale of facilities, vessel sizes, availability of other infrastructure, etc. However, there is scope for improvement in cargo handling productivity in Indian ports as compared to advanced foreign ports.

(c) Performance of ports is assessed in terms of specific port performance indicators like pre-berthing detention, turn round time and ship berth day output.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) An outlay of around Rs. 10,650 crores has been proposed in the 9th Five Year Plan for the replacement of old and obsolete assets, modernisation and additions. The port sector has been opened up for private sector participation to bring in the required financial and managerial resources. Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been introduced from 1991, which has brought about reduction in employee strength. The Wage settlement of 1994 between the port management and the labour federations provides for a productivity increase of 7% per annum with all the above measures. The productivity of cargo handling and unloading operations is expected to improve although it is difficult to quantify such improvement.

[English]

Upgradation of Minor Ports into Major Ports

1350. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade some intermediate and minor ports in the country into major ports during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a need to develop shipping in the country in order to promote international trade; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government have taken various measures to develop the Indian Shipping Industry in order to promote international trade. Some of the salient features of these are as under:-

Automatic approval is now given for:

(i) Acquisition of all categories of ships except crude tankers and offshore supply vessels by private shipowning companies.

(ii) Acquisition of ships from an Indian Shipyard.

(iii) Acquisition of replacement tonnage.

(iv) Foreign investment upto 51% for mechaniced sailing vessels upto 10,000 Deed Weight Tonne.

K.V. at Jehanabad and Muzzafarnagar

1351. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SOHAN BEER :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Jehanabad in Bihar and in Muzzafarnagar of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (d) Proposals for opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas including those at Jehanabad and Muzzafarnagar, during 1997-98, are under consideration of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

[Translation]

Misutilisation of Funds

1352. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facilities/money provided by the Government for Anganwadi and literacy programmes in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh are being misused;

(b) whether the funds are being misused openly, particularly in the districts of Purvanchal; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to prevent the misuse of Government funds ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (c) The projects are implemented by the State Governments and they are responsible to take action and report about any misuse that comes to their notice.